

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC MX NU VE

SUBJECT: ARREST AND DETENTION: ADRIANA COVER KNUST

1. AT REQUEST OF VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR HERE, MINISTER JULY 7 RECEIVED MRS. HORTENSIA KNUST CESPEDES DE GUERRERO, A US CITIZEN, WHO REQUESTED OUR ASSISTANCE WITH FOLLOWING MATTER.

2. MRS. KNUST'S DAUGHTER, ADRIANA COVER KNUST (B. AUGUST 21, 1951, ROME), A VENEZUELAN CITIZEN, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN DETAINED JUNE 28 IN MANAGUA FOR CARRYING MAIL FOR A SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION. MRS. KNUST, WHO HAS NOT HAD CONTACT WITH HER SINCE HER DETENTION, WAS ADVISED OF THE DETENTION BY TELEPHONE BY FRIENDS OF HER DAUGHTER AND SUBSEQUENTLY HAD THE INFORMATION CONFIRMED BY THE MEXICAN EMBASSY IN NICARAGUA. MRS. KNUST BELIEVES HER DAUGHTER, WHOM SHE DESCRIBED AS APOLITICAL, TO HAVE BEEN "USED" BY A NICARAGUAN YOUTH WITH WHOM HER DAUGHTER IS INFATUATED. MRS. KNUST SAYS SHE HAD ONLY CASUAL KNOWLEDGE OF HER DAUGHTER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NICARAGUAN YOUTH (WHOM SHE BELIEVED TO BE A GUATEMALAN CITIZEN) AND WAS SHOCKED TO LEARN OF HER DAUGHTER'S ALLEGED ACTIVITY.

3. MRS. KNUST'S PRESENT HUSBAND, MARCELO GUERRERO HERRERA, A MEXICAN CITIZEN, IS TRAVELING TO NICARAGUA JULY 8 AND WILL STAY AT THE HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL. HE MAY CONTACT EMBASSY, MANAGUA.

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4. MINISTER EXPLAINED TO MRS. KNUST THAT PERTINENT

CONSIDERATION FOR NICARAGUAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES WILL
PROBABLY BE CITIZENSHIP OF HER DAUGHTER AND THAT US
OFFICIALS CANNOT PROPERLY INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF A THIRD
COUNTRY NATIONAL. HOWEVER, WE ASSURED HER THAT WE WOULD
PROVIDE YOU WITH ABOVE INFORMATION IN EVENT THAT
NICARAGUAN AUTHORITIES MIGHT RESPOND TO QUESTIONS CON-
CERNING STATUS OF HER DAUGHTER AND PROSPECT FOR RELEASE
OR PROSECUTION.

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